

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, all the claims pending in the application, are rejected. Claim 1 is amended. Claims 2-8 are cancelled.

Specification:

Title of the invention has been amended as the Examiner suggests. In addition, the specification has been amended to conform to the content of amended claim 1 and to remove specific reference to claims.

Claim Objections:

The objection is moot in view of the cancellation of the claims.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103:

Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Burry (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0085874). This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

Amended Claim 1

Amended claim 1 is restricted to the constitution of the fourth embodiment, as illustrated in Fig.7 and described at least at pages 34-39.

The invention of amended claim 1 has principle features of comprising “a current detection circuit doubling as a regulator including a constant voltage circuit and a current mirror circuit, for generating a reference voltage from a power supply voltage to thereby generate voltage to be fed to a parallel node, and for detecting a current flow at the parallel node by copying by the current mirror circuit, a resistor for converting the copied current flow into a voltage, and for generating a clicking operation signal corresponding to change in respective resistance values of the first to fourth resistance elements in response to a load applied to the device by operating the pointing device in the direction along the z-axis, a regulator for generating a reference voltage from the power supply voltage to thereby supply the reference voltage to the first to third amplifiers and the switching circuits.”

With these features, “variation of the voltage to be fed to the first to third amplifier and switching circuits can be avoided even if the load applied to the current detection circuit

doubling as the regulator is varied to thereby vary the output voltage due to the change in the resistance elements of the pointing device.”, which is an advantageous effect achieved by the present invention.

The above features of amended claim 1 is in accordance with the recitation of “(The signal processing system 61 comprises)...a regulator 70 for generating a first constant potential Vreg 1 from the power supply voltage Vdd, and a current detection circuit 71 doubling as a regulator for generating a second reference voltage Vreg 2 from the power supply voltage Vdd and detecting a current flowing into the pressure-sensitive pointing device 81(at page 36, lines 11-16)” and the subsequent paragraph (on page 36, bridging to page 37).

Additionally, in amended claim 1, the description has been clarified with respect to the relation of connection among each elements constituting the pointing device, each elements constituting the signal processing system, and the elements of both the pointing device and the signal processing system.

Support for the other amendments to claim 1 is the description provided for the Fourth Embodiment, particularly at page 34, lines 1-19 and at page 38, bridging to page 39. Support for the amendments defining the effect of invention is the recitation of the paragraph from page 37 bridging to page 38.

Burrry

In contrast, Burrry fails to disclose the above-described features and can not achieve the effect of the present invention. Thus, amended claim 1 cannot be anticipated.

Claim 2

The rejection of this claim is moot in view of its cancellation.

Claim 1 is rejected in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Marten (U.S. Patent No. 6,486,871). This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

Marten ‘871 does not teach the invention as now recited in amended claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marten '871 as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Marten (U.S. Patent No. 6,429,850). This rejection moot in view of the cancellation of the rejected claims.

Claims 6-7 are rejected as being unpatentable over Marten '871 as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,961,009 (Baik). This rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of the rejected claims.

Claims 6 and 8 are rejected, claim 6 being rejected in the alternative, as being unpatentable over Marten '871 as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Japanese Patent Publication No. 2001-324519 (Mitsuoka). This rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of the rejected claims.

Conclusion

None of Marten '871, Marten '850, Mitsuoka, Baik and Burry teach the invention defined by amended claim 1, and no combination of these references teach or suggest the invention now defined by claim 1 as related to the fourth embodiment of the invention.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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